

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 191720Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5214

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR,IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-1976 SUMMER ALL-CARGO SERVICES

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, BOTH SEABOARD AND PAA HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO INTRODUCE 747 ON ALL-CARGO SERVICES TO ITALY DURING 1976 SUMMER SEASON. PAA CONSIDERING ONE WEEKLY 747 FREQUENCY INSTEAD OF PRESENT TWO 707 FREQUENCIES; SEABOARD PONDERING SOME VARIATION USING BOTH 747 AND DC-8/63F WHICH WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO PRESENT CAPACITY.

2. BASED ON DISCUSSION OF CARGO CAPACITY WITH ALITALIA REP LECCESE (DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS), EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ALITALIA WOULD NOT OFFER STRONG OBJECTIONS TO PAA REPLACING ITS PRESENT AUTHORIZED TWO AND ONE-HALF WEEKLY FREQUENCIES--TWO ROUND TRIPS AND ONE WEST-BOUND ONLY--WITH A SINGLE 747 FREQUENCY. (ONCE A WEEK SERVICE FOR PAA WOULD IMPROVE ALITALIA'S COMPETITIVE POSITION IN ROME-US MARKET.) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE HOW MANY DC-8/63FS EQUAL 747-F IN TERMS OF CAPACITY, LECCESE SAID ALITALIA CONSIDERS TWO DC-8/63FS TO EQUAL ONE 747-F; HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANYTHING LESS THAN FULLY STRETCHED DC-8 WOULD REQUIRE ANOTHER EQUIVALENCY FORMULA. EMBASSY THEREFORE CONCLUDES THAT ALITALIA WOULD ULTIMATELY BE WILLING ACCEPT A SEABOARD SCHEDULE FOR 1976 SUMMER OPERATIONS WHICH PERMITS 747 USE

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BUT DOES NOT INCREASE CAPACITY, E.G., FOUR 747 WEEKLY FRE-

QUENCIES AND ONE DC-8/63 WEEKLY FREQUENCY INSTEAD OF
NINE DC-8/63 FREQUENCIES.

3. SEABOARD REPS INFORMED EMBOFF JANUARY 12 THAT THEY
STILL HAD REACHED NO DECISION ON WHETHER OR WHEN TO BRING
747 INTO ITALY. THEY DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT SEABOARD
WILL TAKE DELIVERY OF ANOTHER 747-F FROM BOEING IN MAY.
PAA REP SAID ON JANUARY 15 THAT HIS HEADQUARTERS HAD NOT
YET DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO "INTEGRATE" 747
ON A NEW YORK-FRANKFURT-ROME ROUTE. EMBASSY HOPES BOTH PAA
AND SEABOARD CAN REACH FINAL DECISION IN NEAR FUTURE IN VIEW
OF NEED TO FILE FINAL SUMMER 1976 SCHEDULES NOT LATER THAN
JANUARY 30. VOLPE

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